

THE JOY OF OBEDIENCE

We live in a culture where joy coupled with obedience is a foreign concept. In a world that often equates happiness with personal freedom or fleeting pleasures, the text of scripture provides a countercultural truth—true joy flows from walking in God’s commands. As Christians, we ought to understand this fundamental principle, yet many struggle with the concept of desiring what God desires and doing what honors Him.

We understand that those who reject Christ and reject a biblical understanding of salvation, the gospel, or His word have no true desire for the things of God. We daily wrestle with people who desire their own happiness and are in a constant pursuit of misplaced joy. At the core of the issue is what one might refer to today as a “worship disorder” or better stated in biblical parlance, idolatry.

Thankfully, over the years in ministry, I have witnessed many followers of Christ come to the knowledge and realization of His transforming power. He truly is more desirable than anything this world has to offer. God does a work in us when by faith we believe. And part of that work is to change our desires, affections, and longings. We begin to understand that part of that changed desires is a corresponding obedience—an obedience that is not burdensome but rather a pathway to blessing. Psalm 119:1 says, *“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”*

The psalmist uses the word *“blessed”* to describe a state of deep, abiding happiness. It is not a superficial feeling, but rather a settled joy rooted in God’s presence. This blessing comes to those who walk in the law of the Lord, keep His statutes, and who diligently seek Him with their whole heart. Please note the connection between obedience and joy (blessing). There is a direct correlation, and the two are inseparable. When we align our thinking and actions with God’s Word, our hearts are transformed, and we experience the delight of living for His glory and honor.

It is true for many that the challenges of life and the persistent demands of our time can cause us great stress and rob us of joy. Additionally, many assume that following God’s commands will somehow restrict their freedom or add to their burdens. In reality, the complete opposite is true. As Dr. Kevin Carson says, *“Obedience liberates us from the chains of sin and self-reliance; obedience breaks the life-depleting motive of selfishness.”*

When we choose to trust and obey God’s Word, we discover a joy that goes way beyond our circumstances. It is a joy that is settled regardless

of my physical health, financial wherewithal, or even difficult relationships. It is rooted in walking according to His precepts and trusting Him for the results the functionally we have no control over—despite our attempts to manipulate.

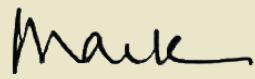
Let me suggest three very practical ways in which one can experience joy through obedience:

1) **Choose to delight in God’s word.** The writer of Psalm 119:16 says, *“I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.”* The psalmist finds joy in meditating on Scripture because it reveals God’s character and will. For you and me, make time each day to read and reflect on a passage. Ask yourself, “What does this teach me about God? How can I apply it?” As you immerse yourself in Scripture, your love for God’s commands will grow, and so will your joy.

2) **Choose to obey with all your heart.** The psalmist prays, *“Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law and keep it with all my heart”* (Ps 119:34). The direction of our lives is to live in obedience to His precepts. That stems from what drives us including our desires. Obedience is not about perfection but it is about a sincere desire to honor God. Look for a specific way to please God this week by selecting one command from His word and apply it—say gratitude (1 Thess 5:18) or a forgiving spirit (Eph 4:4:32). Ask God to help you apply the commands in all circumstances, especially when you want to do otherwise.

3) **Choose to pray.** The psalmist beseeches the Lord, *“I cried with all my heart; answer me, O LORD! I will observe Your statutes. I cried to You; save me And I shall keep Your testimonies”* (Ps 119:145-146). When we pray, our hearts are more aligned with the purposes of God. When we acknowledge Him and our desperate need to have Him intervene in our lives, He inclines His ear toward us. As we seek Him, we confess any resistance to obedience and ask for strength to follow His Word. God in His goodness, begins to transforms our desires, making obedience a delight rather than a duty.

As the Psalmist reminds us: keep His word ever before you, obey Him with your whole heart, and continually seek Him above all else. Be encouraged today that obedience to His precepts do not steal your joy; it gives you joy. Think and do the things He requires out of a genuine transformed heart to please Him, and transcendent joy will be yours. *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”* (Hebrews 10:23).



Mark Pitman
Executive Director

Connect with us!

cpcnwo.org | (419) 636-5692

CPC Women’s Health Resource

@cpcwomenshealthresource

@CPCWHR

CPC WHR

Supported by:



of Defiance, Fulton, Henry,
Paulding, and Williams Counties

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRYAN, OH 43506
PERMIT #124

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1410 W. High Street
Bryan, OH 43506



WOMEN'S
HEALTH
RESOURCE
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

Get Involved!

Volunteer

Many volunteers dedicate their time and talents to serve our clients. From keeping our centers clean to answering phones to walking alongside clients in crisis, it takes a team of people to keep things running. If you are interested in serving with us, please contact our business office at (419) 636-5692. Consistent volunteer opportunities are available at all four of our offices.

Give

Your gift of any amount will make a difference. Contact our business office at (419) 636-5692 for giving options.

Pray

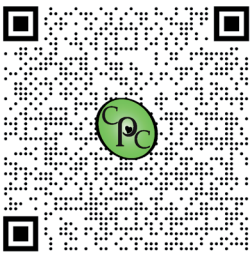
Ask God to protect the unborn, to be near to our clients, and to work through our staff. You may also sign up to receive “Bella Alert” messages to pray for abortion-minded clients by texting the word Bella to (844) 664-3423.

Baby Bottle Fundraiser

Our annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser runs from Mother’s Day to Father’s day. If you picked up a bottle, please drop it off at your nearest CPC location when you are finished collecting.

Please plan to join us for our 39th Annual Walkathon and 5K! Mark your calendars for September 27th, and invite your friends, family, church group, or others.

For more information or to register, call (419) 636-5692, or scan the QR code to visit our website



Presented by:



39TH ANNUAL STEPS FOR LIFE WALKATHON & 5K RUN



27 SEPTEMBER 2025

at the BRYAN CPC 1410 W HIGH ST

FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES 9am-11am

Registration will be from 9am-10am. There will be a bounce house, pumpkin painting, pumpkin weight guess, cornhole, face painting, music, and more.

FREE GROUP WALK 10am

Bring your friends and family to take "Steps for Life"! Walkers are encouraged to collect donations for CPC leading up to the event. There will be prizes for top fundraisers.

\$25 5K RUN 10am

Includes t-shirt. There will be prizes for race winners.

Ministry Position Openings

Please contact Mark Pitman (419-636-5692 or mark@cpcnwo.org) with any interest.

Community Liaison

CPC seeks an individual passionate to inform the Northwest Ohio community about our services. The Community Liaison will promote CPC's mission through one-on-one meetings, public events, and media relations. He or she will also be responsible for content creation and assisting with fundraising. Candidates must have a degree and/or experience in public relations, graphic design, health, or another relevant field. This part-time positions is 15-20 hours per week and has flexibility.

Nurse Practitioner for the STI Clinic

We seek a Nurse Practitioner to perform STI testing at our Bryan and/or Defiance locations.

Director of Project Respect

We are seeking a self-motivated, flexible, dependable individual with strong organizational and management skills to serve as Director of Project Respect. The Director must adhere to the conviction that abstinence is the best solution to avoiding the risks of premarital sexual activity. Duties include scheduling, grant reporting, ensuring adherence to grant requirements, and overseeing new staff hiring and training. A Bachelor's degree or higher in education, health, management, social work or a related field is strongly preferred.

Project Respect Classroom Facilitator

We seek classroom presenters to join our Project Respect team. This is a part time, paid position. Facilitators travel to schools in Defiance, Henry, Fulton, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams counties to share messages of Sexual Risk Avoidance and character education to middle and high school students.

Gifts Given

In Memory of Anna Pitman
Given by: Janet Burkholder, Don and Sheila Hicks, Greg and Jenna Kehnast, Sandra Taylor, and David and Stephanie Lamore

In Memory of Josephine Reyes
Given by: Edward and Jennifer Miller, Rob and Sharla Young, and Anonymous

In Memory of Dan McQuade
Given by: Gloria McQuade

In Memory of Zach
Given by: Anonymous

Gift to Project Respect Given in Memory of Treva Stephens, employee Taryn's aunt
Given by: Anonymous

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. John 14:27

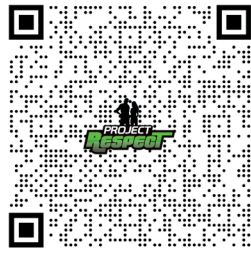
Project Respect's 15th Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, August 2, 2025
Registration starts at 8 am
Shotgun start at 9 am

Ironwood Golf Course
1015 W Leggett St
Wauseon, OH 43567

REGISTRATION
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION THROUGH JUNE 15, 2025:
\$90 PER GOLFER
\$360 PER TEAM

AFTER JUNE 15, 2025:
\$100 PER GOLFER
\$400 PER TEAM



The event will include 18 Holes of golf, cart, lunch, door prizes, 50/50 raffle, and more!

For more information or to register:
-Contact Mark Pitman at mark@cpcnwo.org
-Scan the QR Code
-Visit your local CPC Women's Health Resource to pick up a registration form.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Project Respect, a non-profit character education program of CPC Women's Health Resource. We envision a community of young people who STAND UP against social pressures and STAND OUT as people of character. We serve students in 6 counties including Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, and Williams. For more information, visit projectrespectnwo.org.

Clinic Needs



Bryan



Defiance



Napoleon



Wauseon

Bryan: Baby wash, lotion, shampoo, dishes & bowls, crib sheets, booties, wipes, bottle brushes, boys' shoes, teethingers, boys' fleece blankets, changing pads, brushes/combs, diapers (size 5 & 6), thermometers, nail clippers, onesies (boys' sz 9 mos & girls' sz 18-24 mos. No white, please)

Defiance: Diapers (sizes newborn, 5, and 6) sleepers (sizes 9, 12, and 18 mos), outfits (boys' and girls' 9, 12, and 18 mos), baby hair brushes, baby toys, quilts, receiving blankets

Napoleon: Diapers (size 6), digital thermometers

Wauseon: Diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6), girls' clothing (sz newborn through 24mo/2T, long sleeve), hooded infant towels